programme does not cover barter arrangements. Offers by Indian companies of expertise in railway construction projects have been made under this programme to Iraqi authorities.

Indian citizens in Oman jails

*1236. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens under imprisonment in Oman jails;

(b) whether any prisoners have been let off by reducing the form of imprisonment as the part of amnesty or whether the Oman Government proposes for the remission of the sentence of any Indian prisoners;

(c) whether any appeal or review or mercy petition preferred by any Indian prisoner is pending with Oman Government or appellate courts for final verdict; and

(d) whether any prisoners have been kept under imprisonment even after the completion of their term of imprisonment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) According to information available with the Government, there are at present 40(forty) Indians in Omani jails.

(b) Only one Indian national was released before completion of his imprisonment term.

(c) Petitions received from the relatives of prisoners are forwarded by our mission in Muscat to His Majesty the Sultan through the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from time to time for grant of pardon. Normally pardon is given only rarely and judicial verdicts are strictly implemented.

(d) No such case has been brought to the notice of the Government.